

Please DO NOT let folks use cell phones in flight. As a captain for a major airline, I can assure you they DO effect cockpit instrumentation and at an inopportune time could even cause a fatal accident that would never be explained by the NTSB or FAA. The IEEE has plenty of data and information showing how and why they are so unpredictable in their effects.

Cell phone use in flight would also be incredibly distracting to the thousands of passengers subjected to hearing their neighbor's conversations. We have enough passenger personality type conflicts on a daily basis, we don't need to add to the problems by allowing folks to irritate everyone around them with loud, inappropriate discourse.

Sending internet messages through an approved transmission system would not be a problem. Voice contact would definitely be a problem. If you allow the camel's nose under the tent by allowing internet messaging or even cell phone text messaging you will create the problem of having to deal with the people that "didn't know" that they could only use their cell phones in the text mode, etc. Thus creating an additional disciplinary problem for both the flight attendant, cockpit crews, and local law enforcement that needs to meet the a/c.

Again, please DO NOT permit cell phone use on aircraft in flight.

Thank you for your time.

R Howell